

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09756 161004Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

H-03 DRC-01 /092 W

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R 160937Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5943

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 9756

E.O. 11695: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - APIRPORT FEES AT FIUMICINO AND CIAMPINO

REF: STATE 146639; ROME 8803

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO CLARIFY STATUS OF ALITALIA EXEMPTION FROM LANDING FEES FOLLOWING JULY 1 REORGANIZATION OF ROME AIRPORTS. THERE REMAIN A NUMBER OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND UNTIL WE HAVE ALL FACTS AT HAND, SUGGEST AVOIDING FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO GOI. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY IS CHECKING FURTHER INFO STATUS OF ALITALIA EXEMPTION FROM LANDING/TAKEOFF FEES AT ROME AIRPORTS IN LIGHT OF JULY 1 ESTABLISHMENT OF ROME AIRPORT AUTHORITY (SAR). SEVERAL QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED AND IT NOT RPT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER ALITALIA IS NOW PAYING OR WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY LANDING/TAKEOFF FEES AT FIUMICINO AND CIAMPINO. WITH RECORD DEFICIT EVISAGED FOR 1974, WE EXPECT ALITALIA IS DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO DELAY OR NEGAT THE LOSS OF ITS EXEMPTION.

3. AMONG THE ELEMENTS COMPLICATING THE PICTURE ARE: 1) THE FACT THAT ALITALIA'S CONCESSION TO OPERATE -- WHICH IN TURN SANCTIONS ITS FREE USE OF GOVERNMENT - OPERATED AIRPORTS -- EXPIRED IN
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PAGE 02 ROME 09756 161004Z

JUNE 1974 AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT YET BEEN EXTENDED OR RENEWED; 2) FURTHER, ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE SAR

CONVENTION IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, A DRAFT COPY WE OBTAINED DOES NOT RPT NOT SINGLE OUT ALITALIA AS BENEFICIARY OF EXEMPTION FROM TAKEOFF/LANDING FEES: ARTICLE 12 OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION CITES ONLY OFFICIAL ITALIAN AND NATO MEMBER COUNTRY AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH GRANT ITALY RECIPROCITY. MOREOVER, THE SAR CONVENTION DOES NOT RPT NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL ITS PUBLICATION IN THE GAZZETTA UFFICIALE, WHICH MAY BE PERIOD OF MONTHS FROM NOW. THUS, ASSUMING THERE IS A CASE AGAINST ALITALIA, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PURSUE BEFORE SAR'S LEGALITY IS ESTABLISHED.

4. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND IN THE MEANTIME RECOMMENDS THAT FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS BE AVOIDED UNTIL WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION. WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE MATTER DISCREETLY BE RAISED ON THE OCCASION OF A CALL IN SEPTEMBER ON THE NEW AIRPORT AUTHORITY, WHICH ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY IN EXISTENCE, IS NOT YET FULLY OPERATIONAL. WE WILL, OF COURSE KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, SUBSIDIES, AIRLINES, FEES, AIRPORT FEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME09756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740190-0113
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740745/aaaabmhv.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 146639; ROME 8803
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - APIRPORT FEES AT FIUMICINO AND CIAMPINO
TAGS: ETRN, IT, ALITALIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005